



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Roy A. BLACK *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/244,984

Filing Date: February 4, 1999

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: M. Moran

Title: *CRYSTALLINE TNF- α -CONVERTING ENZYME AND USES THEREOF*

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R §1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed in the above-captioned case on October 2, 2002. Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of time, up to and including February 2, 2003. A check is attached in full payment of all fees believed due in connection with the present submission. If the amount is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to make appropriate charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Applicants request reconsideration and reexamination of their application, in light of the following revisions and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 67-74 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend the following claims:

41. (Amended) The method according to claim 66, wherein said associating compound is an inhibitor, mediator, or other compound that regulates TNF- α -converting enzyme activity.

42. (Amended) The method of claim 66, wherein said associating compound is a competitive inhibitor, un-competitive inhibitor, or non-competitive inhibitor.

63. (Amended) A method of identifying a compound that associates with tumor necrosis factor- α -converting enzyme (TACE), comprising (A) using atomic coordinates that comprise the coordinates of Table 1 to design an associating compound that forms a bond with a catalytic domain of a TACE polypeptide, and (B) determining via computer-generated models whether said compound associates with said catalytic domain.

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Plunkett
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